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Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-06 OIC-04 /014 W
---------- 069118
R 121314Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8618

UNCLAS LONDON 03107

FOR IO MENTER FROM CALDERHEAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: AORG, IMCO
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT IMCO MEETINGS LONDON

1. ADMIRAL BENKERT AND ASSOCIATES, IN LONDON TO PARTICIPATE IN IMCO MEETINGS, HAVE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION THEIR VIEWS ON ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS THEY CONSIDER WILL INSURE GREATER EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY IN CARRYING OUT THE IMCO MISSION. ADMIRAL BENKERT HAS NO PROBLEM WITH SPACE, SUPPLIES, REPRODUCTION, COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING TELEPHONE, INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE, AND TELEGRAPH), SECURITY, OR SUBSTANTIVE BACKSTOPPING. HE THINKS, HOWEVER, MORE MIGHT BE DONE IN THE FIELDS OF TRANSPORTATION, REPRESENTATION, AND SECRETARIAL SUPPORT.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS EXPLAINED THAT WITH A REDUCED MOTOR POOL, LIMITED DRIVERS, AND CURTAILED DRIVING BECAUSE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE IMCO DELEGATION WITH A PERSONALLY ASSIGNED CAR. WE ARE, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, WILLING TO PROVIDE ON AD HOC BASIS TRANSPORTATION FOR MOST OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS. DELEGATIONS OFTEN, HOWEVER, TRAVEL BETWEEN IMCO AND THE EMBASSY TWO OR MORE TIMES A DAY DURING THE COURSE OF MEETINGS WHICH NOW OCCUPY SOME FORTY WEEKS A YEAR. THE NEED TO RESORT TO USING TAXIS FOR SUCH TRAVEL IS RECOGNIZED BY ALL CONCERNED. THE OTHER SOLUTION, FOR WHICH IO SUPPORT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL, IS TO ESTABLISH AN IO ALLOTMENT TO COVER THE COST OF HIRING CHAUFFEUR
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DRIVEN CARS TO SUPPORT THE DELEGATION MEMBERS.

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3. THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO EXPLAINED TO ADMIRAL BENKERT ITS INABILITY TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION FUNDS. WITH THE HIGH COST OF LIVING IN LONDON IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT HE FINDS $100 INADEQUATE TO FULFILL HIS REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS. IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE TO BE FORTHCOMING, THEY MUST BE PROVIDED BY IO.

4. DURING NORMAL EMBASSY HOURS THE EMBASSY HAS SUCCESSFULLY PROVIDED MOST OF THE SECRETARIAL SUPPORT ESSENTIAL FOR THE IMCO DELEGATES. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE, HOWEVER, TO PROVIDE A SECRETARY SOLELY FOR DELEGATION USE ON A FULL-TIME BASIS. MOREOVER, IMCO SECRETARIAL SUPPORT FOR MAJOR MEETINGS WITH LARGE DELEGATIONS OFTEN IS REQUIRED AFTER NORMAL WORKING HOURS AND ON WEEKENDS. THUS IO FINANCIAL SUPPORT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET OVERTIME COSTS.

5. ADMIRAL BENKERT RECOGNIZES THAT THE EMBASSY WILLINGLY PROVIDES WHATEVER SUPPORT FACILITIES WE HAVE AND CAN SPARE. WE MADE CLEAR TO HIM THAT FOR THE EXTENSIVE SERIES OF UPCOMING IMCO MEETINGS THE EMBASSY CANNOT PROVIDE ANY REPRESENTATION FUNDS, AND ONLY LIMITED TRANSPORTATION AND SECRETARIAL SUPPORT OUT OF ITS OWN RESOURCES. ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON, THEREFORE, ADMIRAL BENKERT WILL PROPOSE STEPS TO ESTABLISH IO ALLOTMENTS AT LONDON TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS. AFTER DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH ADMIRAL BENKERT WE SHALL BE PLEASED TO COOPERATE WITH IO IN FINDING WORKABLE SOLUTIONS.

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